

If a fire should occur...

- CLOSE the doors to stop the spread of the fire
- SOUND the alarm, alert others to the danger
- GET OUT of the building
- NOTIFY the fire department

DO NOT go back into the building or try to save your stuff.

Clothes, books and papers can be replaced-

**YOU CAN'T!**

Information on campus fire safety is available through the U.S Fire Administration

[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

and

The Center for Campus Fire Safety

[www.campusfire.org](http://www.campusfire.org).

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- American Cancer Society
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- NFPA International
- SimplexGrinnell
- United States Fire Administration
- University of Texas System



[www.campusfire.org](http://www.campusfire.org)

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**INFO BULLETIN  
ON...**

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# Fire Alarms

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## ***Fire Alarm System Information Bulletin***

### **A building's fire alarm system-How does it work?**

**Smoke Alarm**...also often known as smoke detectors, these devices are one of the best early-warning devices of a fire. They are designed to sense low levels of smoke and sound an alarm.

Some smoke alarms are what are known as "single station," or stand-alone devices. If they go into alarm, only the one detector is activated, alerting people right around it. Some detectors may be connected to the building's fire alarm system. When this detector senses smoke, it may either sound an alarm in the room, or send a signal to the building fire alarm system.

It is important that smoke alarms are located in areas where they cannot be set off accidentally by steam from showers or from cooking smoke.

No matter what type of setup you may have, no fire detector can do its job if it is disabled. **Whatever you do...**

- LEAVE the batteries in the detector
- LEAVE the detector uncovered so it can "smell" the smoke
- LEAVE the detector on the wall or ceiling where it can do its job.

A lot of fire fatalities have occurred when the detector has been disabled.

**Don't be one of them!**

**Pull Stations**...Manual pull stations are the devices that are located on the wall. While there are different designs, generally they are activated by "pulling" on a handle. This sends a signal to the building's fire alarm system, which will make it go into alarm.

As with all parts of a fire alarm system, pull stations should only be activated when there is a true emergency.

Unfortunately, these devices are often used by vandals to cause false alarms. To help combat this, a number of different methods are used that have been very successful.

**Heat Detectors**...In some areas, such as kitchens, smoke detectors would be going off all of the time. Heat detectors, which react at either a fixed temperature, or when heat is rising at a certain rate, provide detection in these areas. Some smoke detectors have heat detectors as part of their design to provide dual protection.

**Flow Switches**...If a building has a sprinkler system in it, this system may have switches that will detect water flowing in it. These switches will then cause the building fire alarm system to activate. Generally, if a sprinkler system is flowing water, there is a fire in the building and everyone should get out immediately if they can do so safely.

### ***Audible and Visual***

**Alarms**...There are a variety of different devices that can let you know when the fire alarm system has been activated. Some are horns, some have flashing strobe lights on them, some are speakers that will provide you with recorded instructions. All fire alarm systems are designed to be audible in all rooms, even when the doors are closed.

### ***What to do when the alarm***

**goes off**...if the alarm in your building goes off, there is one thing that you should always do-get out! While you may think that it is another false alarm, or you may believe you are in no danger, you can't tell from your room. You should always evacuate the building when the alarm on your floor sounds if it is safe for you to do so.

When the fire alarm went off on the night of January 19, 2000 at Seton Hall, it had been the 19<sup>th</sup> alarm within several weeks that had occurred at Borland Hall. A number of the students didn't leave, thinking it was another false alarm. This time, the fire was real and three freshman were killed.